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# Royal Geographical Society.

1856.

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## REPORT OF THE COUNCIL,

READ AT THE ANNIVERSARY MEETING ON THE 26TH MAY.

THE Council have the pleasure to submit to the Members of the Royal Geographical Society the following Report of its operations and financial progress during the past year:—

*Members.*—*Ordinary, Honorary and Corresponding.*— Since the last Anniversary 84 ordinary members have been added to the lists of the Society. Two corresponding members have also, upon the recommendation of the Council, been duly elected,—Lieut. Maury, of the United States Navy, and Captain Irminger, of the Danish Navy.

The Society has lost by death during the same period several valuable Associates, including the Vicomte de Santarem and Don José Urcullu, corresponding members.

The Society now consists of 57 honorary and corresponding members, and 840 ordinary members.

*Finances.*—The audited accounts of the past year, annexed to this Report, afford satisfactory evidence of the sound financial condition of the Society. The expenditure has in every respect been kept within the estimates submitted at the last General Meeting; whilst the receipts under the several heads of income have considerably exceeded the sums then calculated upon. Under these favourable circumstances the Council have applied a portion of the cash balance exhibited, arising from the compositions of life members, to the increase of the Society's permanent fund by the purchase of 600*l.* New 3 per Cents.

*Publications.*—The 25th volume of the *Journal*, edited by Dr. Shaw, is now ready for delivery. It comprises records of important geographical researches, illustrated by original maps, and contains much other matter of general interest.

A Summary of "the Proceedings of the Society, with additional Notices ordered for publication by the Council," has also been readily undertaken by our Secretary, with the assistance of Mr. F. Galton and the Revs. S. Clark and C. G. Nicolay, to whom the thanks of the Society are especially due. Three numbers have already appeared. It is considered that a periodical of this character, as a means of quickly disseminating geographical information, will prove valuable, not only to the Fellows of the Society, but to the public at large, by whom it may be obtained from the publisher, at a very low rate of subscription.

The Board of Trade has been added to the list of establishments to which the publications of the Society are presented.

*Map-rooms.*—The apartments now allotted to the Society's Maps and Charts have been visited for purposes of scientific reference during the past year by a large number of persons of different classes and pursuits; and the public importance of the Society's collection has on many recent occasions been fully evinced.

The general contributions to this department since the last Anniversary comprise 4 Atlases and upwards of 350 Maps and Charts; of which may be here specified a beautiful Physical Map of Madeira, dedicated to the Society by its active corresponding member, Mr. Ziegler; Views of Brazilian Vegetation by our honorary member, Dr. Martius; the new parts of Keith Johnston's Physical Atlas; also of Dr. Blackie's and of Fullarton's Atlases; seventeen additional sheets of the large 'Atlas de España y sus posesiones ultramar,' by our Associate, Colonel Coello, with Notes by another of our Associates, Don Pascual Madoz; a large Map of the Province of Oviedo, made by order of the Spanish Government; new sheets of the Map of the Sardinian States; the large Amt (or County) Maps of Norway, and others presented by the Royal University of Christiania; Vicomte de Santarem's facsimile of Fra Mauro's Map of the World; the new Geological Map of Europe, by Sir Roderick Murchison and Professor Nicol; M. Lesseps' Map of the Isthmus of Suez; Vestiges of Assyria, drawn by Commander Jones, I.N., from his surveys by order of the Government of India; the County of Sutherland, by the Surveyors of the Duke; Mr. Hall's new Map of the Eastern Frontier of the Cape of Good Hope; several original Manuscript Maps, including those by Dr. Livingston, Mr. Moffat, Mr. Erhardt, Colonel Codazzi, Dr. Kane, Mr. Porter, Mr.

Wallace ; and the Surveys of the Atrato, presented by Mr. Kelley of New York.

*Library.*—The Library continues to be much frequented. The additions to the books of the Society, exclusive of Mr. Greenough's bequest, consist of 663 volumes and pamphlets. Among the most interesting of these acquisitions may be mentioned Burton's Pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina ; Belcher's Last of the Arctic Voyages ; Porter's Damascus ; Andersson's Discoveries and Adventures in South Africa ; Meadows' work on the Chinese and their Rebellions ; Fullarton's and Boyce's Cyclopædias of Geography ; Account of the United States Naval Astronomical Expedition under Lieut. Gilliss ; and Reports of several Expeditions sent by the United States Government to explore the Rocky Mountains ; of Professor Bache's United States Coast Survey, with numerous Charts ; Documents relative to the Colonial History of the State of New York ; Squier's new work on Central America ; the ' *Boletim e Annaes do Conselho Ultramarino*,' by the Portuguese Government ; the Transactions of the Smithsonian Institution of Washington ; of the Franklin Institute of Pennsylvania ; of the Canadian Institute, Toronto ; of the Imperial Geological Institute of Vienna ; of the Lombardo-Veneto Institute of Milan ; of the Batavian Society of Arts and Sciences ; of the Academies of Berlin, Christiania, Copenhagen, Madrid, Munich, Paris, Stockholm, and Vienna, &c.

*Greenough Bequest.*—In addition to the numerous contributions to the Library and Map-rooms, above noticed, these departments have been enriched by the acquisition of the Collection of Maps, Charts, and Books, bequeathed by Mr. Greenough. The Council, desirous to perpetuate the memory of the services rendered to the Society by this eminent geographer, have directed that a marble bust of him shall be executed and placed suitably in its apartments. They confidently look for the concurrence of the Members in this tribute of respect and gratitude.

Mr. Barrow of the Admiralty has recently added to the portraits previously presented by him that of Sir Robert M'Clure, our distinguished medallist. Such contributions illustrate very appropriately the objects and pursuits of the Society.

*Committee on Education.*—The Council have also to notice that,

in accordance with a second communication from the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council on Education, Dr. Shaw has been requested to act, in conjunction with the Rev. Mr. Temple and Mr. Sandford, the Government Inspectors, as Examiner in Geography, and that their Lordships have been again pleased to express their thanks for his services at the April Examination of the present year.

*Royal Premium* for "the Encouragement of Geographical Science and Discovery."—The Founder's Gold Medal has been awarded to Elisha Kent Kane, M.D., of the United States of America, for his services and discoveries in the Polar Regions during the American Expeditions in search of Sir John Franklin and his companions, and for his Memoir and Charts, communicated through the Admiralty; and the Patron's Gold Medal has been awarded to Heinrich Barth, Phil. Dr., of Hamburgh, for his successful and extensive explorations in Central Africa; his numerous excursions about Lake Chád; his discovery of the great river Benué; and his perilous journey to and from Timbuctú.

In connexion with this expedition the Council have awarded a Watch to Corporal Church, of the Royal Sappers and Miners, for his meritorious and intelligent services, as confirmed by his leader, Dr. Vogel.

*Bellot Testimonial.*—The Testimonial to the memory of the brave Lieutenant Bellot, which originated in the Royal Geographical Society, has been carried out by the erection of an obelisk of granite on the quay of Greenwich Hospital; and the Council learn with satisfaction from Sir R. Murchison, the Chairman, that the surplus of the fund, amounting to 1600*l.*, has been distributed among the five sisters of the deceased officer, of whom it is well recorded on his monument, that "in his endeavour to rescue Franklin he shared the fate and the glory of that illustrious navigator."

The Council cannot conclude this Report without a brief reference to the liberal co-operation at all times afforded by Her Majesty's Government in carrying out various important explorations. They would also advert to the valuable communications which have been received from all parts of the world, and which will be found recorded in the Journals and Proceedings of this Society.



*Estimate for the Year 1856.*

ESTIMATE FOR THE YEAR 1856.

<i>Receipts.</i>		<i>Expenditure.</i>	
	£. s. d.		£. s. d.
Annual Subscriptions .. ..	800 0 0	Journal and Illustrations .. ..	£500 0 0
Life Compositions .. ..	250 0 0	Geographical Proceedings .. ..	100 0 0
Entrance Fees .. ..	180 0 0		
Arrears of Subscriptions .. ..	50 0 0	Rent, Wages, Lights and Fires, &c. .. ..	600 0 0
Sales of Journals and Indices .. ..	100 0 0	Salaries—Secretary, Curator, and Clerks .. ..	700 0 0
Dividends on Stock .. ..	65 0 0	Office Expenses .. ..	200 0 0
Royal Premium .. ..	52 10 0	Royal Premium Awards .. ..	52 10 0
Government Grant .. ..	500 0 0	Fire Assurance and Advertisements .. ..	50 0 0
Cash Balance, 1st January, 1856 .. ..	1102 10 0	Library and Map Rooms .. ..	300 0 0
		Compositions invested, 600 <i>l.</i> 3 per Cent. .. ..	553 10 0
		Sundries for Balance .. ..	44 0 0
			£3100 0 0

By order of Council.

NORTON SHAW, *Secretary.*